



## Snook, Daphne


---

**From:** Snook, Daphne  
**Sent:** Friday, May 03, 2013 3:04 PM  
**To:** Andretta, Holly; Hackenberg, June; Manotti, Dustin; Sheaffer, Shari; Spatz, Tina; States, Wendy; Woodling, Shannon  
**Cc:** 'Abram, Beverly'; 'Aucker, Dane'; Harrison, David; Wetzel, Gregg  
**Subject:** Yesterday's Grade-Level Meeting

Dear Fourth Grade Teachers,

Thank you for your time yesterday in grade-level team meetings, and more importantly thank you for your honest reflection and feedback. We had the perfect opportunity to talk about our hopes and fears. I personally thought the discussion was very real and from the heart. I hope you did too, but more importantly I hope you felt like your ideas and opinions were heard.

After much thought and discussion we have decided to provide you with the flexibility you need to be either "all-in" or "ease-in" with some gentle parameters. Some of the parameters we are thinking about include integrating interactive read-aloud and guaranteed independent reading time. Our professional development will be focused on mostly reading workshop. We will work toward leveling libraries, assessment, and continued exposure to reading and writing workshop through peer visitations. Hopefully, this will provide you with the transitional year you requested. We will learn together and work through our bumps in the road together on our way to making the elementary literacy program at Midd-West the absolute best!



Please let me know if you are interested in scheduling your summer grade-level meeting and/or if you have other questions or concerns that you would like to address before the end of the school year.

Have a fabulous weekend!

Daphne D. Snook, Assistant Superintendent | Midd-West School District | [www.mwsd.cc](http://www.mwsd.cc)  
568 E. Main Street, Middleburg, PA 17842 | 570-837-0046 x1201 | [daphnesnook@mwsd.cc](mailto:daphnesnook@mwsd.cc)

# 4TH GRADE DISCUSSION ABOUT WRITING WORKSHOP

What's Working	What's Not Working?	What Do We Do About It?
<p>Writing our own lesson plans rather than using the book. Made lessons our own.</p> <p>Teachers felt less overwhelmed, more familiar with content, better timing w/ML</p> <p>More confidence in the format....applying structure to other content areas</p> <p>quality of students' writing has increased</p> <p>students know the terminology</p> <p>Students may help teachers</p> <p>Cross grade-level collaboration and conversation about curriculum</p> <p>Volume of writing has increased. Students are into their 2nd notebook</p> <p>Students enthusiasm is high</p> <p>Students are engaged and do not want to stop.</p> <p>Mike's strategy of stay on the carpet if you need more work. Small group work post ML...everyone else gets going.</p> <p>Students love and want to share with each other and w/group. They are not afraid.</p> <p>More opportunity to incorporate across content areas.</p> <p>Sharing across grade levels (4th to 2nd, 2nd to 4th)</p> <p>Gives opportunity to see what other grade levels can do.</p> <p>Independent then partner writing (workshop writing)</p> <p>See cross over from reading to writing (i.e. reading about and writing about characters)</p> <p>TC SD huge help...validation of our own teaching.</p> <p>Peer visitations .. do more...</p>	<p>What is quality verses quantity?</p> <p>Grammar, sentence structure...students write a lot, but is it quality writing?</p> <p>May need some components of Launching into the Raising the Quality UoS.</p> <p>More free writing...choice of genre, etc.</p> <p>How can we shift the end of day schedule to get keep kids focused.?</p> <p>Assessing student writing...reading students' writing...</p> <p>Continuum helpful, but confusing...</p>	<p>More grade-level meetings. Could we watch some videos and practice more together?</p> <p>Could we all some of this content? Do an early "boot camp" type to get the year started.</p> <p>Do more student selection of genre.</p> <p>Move announcements, rotate schedule,</p> <p>Move PD needed in reading writing? How can teachers feel more confident in the assessment piece?</p> <p>Opportunities for team teaching</p> <p>What about using mentors (coaches)?</p>